

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the further steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under a Mission Mode Project on technology development and demonstration of biofertilisers, training and awareness building through farmers meals and demonstration in their field in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Punjab, Delhi and West Bengal; the programme has directly benefited the farmers.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The programme is continuing for development of new technology packages of biofertilizers suited to different ecological conditions and crops.

[English]

Agriculture Research Programme

4888. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up a action plan for reorienting the agriculture research programme in collaboration with other advanced/developing countries in various areas during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for the upgradation of facilities and enhancement of quality of education in the agriculture universities during the Ninth Five Year Plan and outlays available for the programme, university-wise;

(c) the details of funds approved/released and actually utilised by the universities during 1997-98; and

(d) the total number of foreign scholarships available to the Indian Students?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. India has signed agreements with U.K., U.S.A., Australia, Brazil, Cuba, Iran, Tunisia, France Laos and Japan in the areas of agricultural research and education.

(b) Since the IX Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised, the details are not available at the moment. However, in the IX plan proposals the agricultural education has been given due importance.

(c) The budget allocated for agricultural education during 1997-98 is Rs. 30.30 crore. Since, the financial year has just begun, the information regarding utilisation of funds is not available.

(d) The Department of Agricultural Research and Education does not have any scheme to provide foreign scholarships to Indian students.

[Translation]

Construction of Dams

4889. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of construction of dams on the rivers of Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh lying pending for environmental and forestry clearance with the Government and the date from which they are lying pending;

(b) the reasons for delay in according approval for the construction of dams on these rivers; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government for speedy clearance and the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No project for construction of dams on rivers of Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh is pending for environmental clearance. One proposal pertaining to diversion of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Donmoshi Tank Project was received on 1st April, 1997.

(b) and (c) The proposal which has very recently been received is presently under process.

[English]

Starvation Deaths in Orissa

4890. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated/reported starvation deaths in severe drought hit areas in the State of Orissa;

(b) whether such cases were also referred to the Human Rights Commission;

(c) if so, the number of cases referred and inquired into; and

(d) the findings thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) No report has been received from the Government of Orissa about any starvation death in the State.

(b) to (d) Government of India have requested the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to enquire into the reports of starvation deaths in the State. The Commission has not yet submitted its report in the matter.

Offtake of Foodgrains

4891. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY:
SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether in most of the States the offtake of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System in recent months has been far below the allocation;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have lagged behind in the offtake of the allocated foodgrains stating the quantity thereof lifted by each State as against the allocation;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) and (b) In most of the States, the percentage of offtake as compared to allotment during January-March, 1997, has been more than 50%. Only in some States, the offtake of wheat and rice has been below 50%.

The details of these States are given as under :
(Fig. in '000 tonnes)

State	Allotment	Offtake	%
1	2	3	4
Rice			
Bihar	100.50	15.90	15.82
Madhya Pradesh	195.00	83.90	43.03
Punjab	4.50	0.40	8.89
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.50	0.10	6.67
Daman & Diu	1.80	0.50	27.78

1	2	3	4
Wheat			
J & K	90.00	36.00	40.00
Sikkim	1.80	0.80	44.44
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.75	0.00	0.00

(c) and (d) Allotments from Central Pool are only supplementary to open market availability, and are managed out of the stocks in the Central Pool which from only 15-20% of the total quantity of foodgrains procured in the country. As such, offtake of foodgrains (wheat and rice) under PDS depends mainly upon the seasonal availability of these commodities in the open market in any State. During the procurement season of wheat and rice, offtake of these commodities generally falls in the States where these commodities are produced. Sometimes, due to some operational problems, there might be shortage of stocks in a particular State and whenever any report to this effect is received either from State or elsewhere, immediate action is taken by the Government to make available the stocks at the required place. Also, whenever any request from the State Government for extension of validity period for lifting the unlifted quantity of PDS foodgrains is received, it is generally considered favourably.

[Translation]

Pollution from International Hotels

4892. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved the proposal for setting up of any authority to ascertain the seriousness of pollution caused due to International Hotel in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this authority has since been set up and submitted its report to the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) In compliance with Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated September 13, 1996 the Central Government has constituted the Environmental Impact Assessment Authority for National Capital Region under Section 3 (3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 vide Gazette Notification dated October 9, 1996. The composition of the authority is below:

- Justice R.K. Shukla,
Retd. Judge of Allahabad High Court.

Chairman